



RESOURCE FOR ADVANCING CHILDREN'S HEALTH

404 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor

New York, New York 10018

Phone: (212) 947-7322

www.thereachinstitute.org

RECEIVED

2020 FEB -3 P 3: 15

POSTAL REGULATORY

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket RM2017-3.

January 29, 2020

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission:

The REACH Institute joins the U.S. nonprofit community in urging you to reconsider the proposed increase in postage rates of about 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded over five years. This increase would cripple our fundraising efforts.

The REACH Institute provides training to enable pediatric primary care practitioners (PCP) to diagnose and treat mental health conditions. An estimated one in five young people in this country suffer from mental illness. Few have access to mental health specialty care, such as a child psychiatrist. Meanwhile, they and their families already have a relationship with their pediatric PCP. Just as that PCP treats common childhood illnesses and injuries, sending only complex cases to specialists, so that PCP also should be able to treat common childhood mental health disorders, such as ADHD, depression, and anxiety. REACH gives them evidence-based strategies for diagnosing and treating mental illness.

Our new scholarship fund for pediatric PCPs in low-income communities—where mental health specialty care is particularly scarce—depends on our ability to use direct mail fundraising. The massive increase you contemplate would put direct mail campaigns out of reach. Then we would not be able to train PCPs in underserved rural and urban areas to help the children who most need help. Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hunter Romanelli, PhD
CEO

Board of Directors

Lisa Hunter Romanelli, PhD, CEO | Peter Jensen, MD, Founder and Chairman | Seth Finkel, Vice Chair | Robert Marshall, Treasurer | Robin Hulshizer, Secretary